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lies in the very careful study which Commander Payer has made of the nature of polar ice, of the laws by which it is governed, and of the influences of currents and temperature upon its distribution and character. Taken in conjunction with the data obtained by Sir George Nares, and with the very interesting and elaborate conclusions arrived at by that officer, we are, for the first time, able to form some definite theory in regard to circumpolar phenomena; and we are bound to say it does not encourage us to believe in the possibility of the North Pole being reached, either by Captain Howgate's proposed colony or any other means. This is a point, however, in regard to which the readers of the book before us are able to form as good an opinion as we can. Before starting on their great voyage in the *Tegetthoff*, Messrs. Payer and Weyprecht made a pioneer cruise in the *Tsbjorn*, a Norwegian sailing-vessel of fifty tons, in which they spent the three summer months of 1871, between Spitzbergen and Novaya Zembya. In the following year the *Tegetthoff* endeavored to force her way north of the latter island, and was caught fast in an ice-pack in a comparatively low latitude, from which she was never afterwards released. There can be no doubt that, in many seasons, she might have avoided this fate, and have attained a higher latitude. She finally drifted to the northward, approaching, at last, the eightieth degree of latitude, a point never before reached by a ship in that part of the world. A sledge-party was then organized, and a continent was discovered, which was named Franz Joseph's Land, after the Emperor of Austria; Commander Payer succeeding in planting the flag of his country on a cape a little to the north of the eighty-second parallel, to which he has given the name of Cape Fligely. The hardships of the second winter in the ice are thrillingly described, and the narrow escape of the whole party from sharing the fate of Sir John Franklin and his companions forms a series of sensational episodes. All these perils were forgotten in the ovation which awaited the officers and crew on their return to their native land; and we cannot close the narrative without a feeling of admiration for the pluck which was displayed throughout, and for the admirable discipline which was preserved, and which has reflected the highest credit on all who took part in the expedition. The work is carefully and profusely illustrated.

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4. — *Titian: His Life and Times.* By J. A. CROWE and G. B. CAVALCASELLE. London: John Murray. 2 vols. 1877.

WE know of no biography, unless it be Masson's *Life of Milton*, which, while tracing the career of a distinguished man, reproduces in

such large outline and patient detail the tissue and color of his times. The historic materials which have been culled and woven together in this work seem to be quite exhaustive, and in a large measure new. The data collected early in this century by Dr. Jacobi, and which formed the basis of Ticozzi's somewhat flimsy book, have been winnowed anew and made to yield much curious information. So, too, the correspondence of Titian with the marquises and dukes of Gonzaga was opened to Messrs. Crowe and Cavalcaselle, and in the Simancas library they obtained access to countless letters exchanged between the painter, Charles the Fifth, Philip the Second, and their ministers. These privileges have been turned to account with creditable industry, and the authors have also been at pains to visit and study almost all of the works to which, rightly or wrongly, the name of Titian is attached, although their number in England and on the Continent exceeds one thousand.

Of course a review of Titian's achievement involves an analysis of Italian art at the epoch of culmination, and in the first stage of decadence, and for this undertaking it will be acknowledged that the joint authors of the "History of Painting in North Italy" had proved themselves competent. Not that they are themselves artists in words, like Ruskin and Taine, but perhaps for that very reason their connoisseurship is the more trustworthy, since they are not betrayed into verbal coruscations, but confine their aim to presenting, in a homely, exact way, facts carefully sifted and conclusions deliberately evolved. It follows that the reader will scan these volumes in vain for criticism of the sparkling sort which is available in conversation, for the striking, paradoxical judgments compressed in epigrams; but the earnest student of art, at a most interesting and decisive era of its development, will find substantial aid in forming sound opinions for himself.

5.—*Science Primers.* Edited by PROFESSORS HUXLEY, ROSCOE, and BALFOUR STEWART. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1876.

IN this day of well-edited school-books perhaps the most useful and creditable achievement in the direction of assimilative apparatus is the series of *Science Primers* published by Appleton. Eight of these have now appeared, and they are not only invested with the authority which attaches to the authors' names, but they are for the most part skilfully adapted to the purposes of elementary education. We should not say, of course, that they are equal in this respect, since few first-rate experimentalists possess the felicitous diction of Professor Huxley, from whom,